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HEATHY R. R. R.  
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4350 - 150th Ave. N.E. • Redmond, Washington 98052-5301 • (206) 885-1900

April 8, 1987

Mr. John Dohn  
City of Seattle  
Department of Construction and  
Land Use  
400 Municipal Building  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Re: Kaiser Cement Short Plat *W Marginal way - Seattle*

Dear Mr. Dohn:

Pursuant to our conversation on April 6, 1987, I am forwarding portions of our file on the former Reichold Chemicals, Inc. site. Based on the information in the file, this property appears to be occupied by Kaiser Cement.

Briefly, Reichold Chemicals operated on the site from the 1940's to approximately 1960-1961. The company manufactured formaldehyde, pentachlorophenol, synthetic resins and hydrochloric acid. Around 1955-1956, the company built two lagoons under pressure from the Pollution Control Commission to cease discharging wastes directly to the Duwamish River. The plant was closed in 1961. The company's practices in Tacoma are similar to those at the old Seattle plant. The file does not address the fate of the lagoons or the contaminants in them after the company left Seattle. A photographic analysis done by U.S. EPA in 1981 indicates that they were filled in. There is no indication that the sludges were removed.

Based on the information on what was manufactured on site, the means of disposal and treatment and the lack of information on the closure of the lagoons, we believe that any excavation or soil sampling done on site be conducted under the presumption that the sub-surface soils contain hazardous wastes.

Any excavation or construction on this site should be preceded by soil and ground water sampling to determine the nature and extent of any contamination. This should prevent workers on the site from coming in contact with hazardous wastes as well as limiting the potential for improper disposal or release of such wastes to the environment.

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I will keep you advised of any new information which confirms the existence or absence of any contamination. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 885-1900.

Sincerely,



Dan Cargill  
District Inspector  
Elliott Bay Action Team

DC:gm